

REMARKS

Claims 4, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20 and 21 are pending in this application. This Amendment will cancel claim 20. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue protection of any or all canceled subject matter in another application. The only pending rejection of the canceled claim is hereafter treated as moot. In the specification, the FIG. 2 legend is amended to correct formalities and include applicable sequence identifiers for nucleic acid and amino acid sequences shown in FIGs. 2A, 2B, and 2C. No new matter is introduced by any of the foregoing amendments.

Entry of the amendments after final action is appropriate because the amendments are believed to place the claims in a condition for allowance. Moreover, entry of the amendments would reduce the number of claims, remove the canceled subject matter from consideration and, thereby, simplify issues for appeal.

Upon entry of the foregoing claim amendments, **claims 4, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 21 will be pending in this application.** Consideration of the amendments to the specification and claims herein is requested.

Claim Objection:

Claims 10, 16, and 21 have been “objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 4.” Otherwise, the Examiner has indicated claims 10, 16, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form” Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejection:

Claims 4, 9, 17, and 20 are have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (written description) because, allegedly, the “specification has not provided any examples to show . . . any . . . protein other than NIMA protein kinase, which could interact with Pin protein or [a] functional fragment.” The Examiner has indicated, however, that “Pin1 protein (SEQ ID NO: 2) [or] a functional fragment of Pin1 (SEQ ID NO: 2) that interacts with NIMA protein kinase, which is modulated by a composition, . . . meets the written description provision.”

Applicants traverse this rejection. Nevertheless, to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Amendment will amend claims 4 and 9 (and, therefore, dependent claim 17) to recite the subject matter that the Examiner states satisfies the written description requirement. In particular, (i) claim 4 as amended herein recites, in relevant part:

. . . incubating the composition with a Pin1 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the functional fragment of the Pin1 protein has NIMA-binding activity and/or peptidyl prolyl isomerase activity . . . (emphasis added); and

(ii) claim 9 as amended herein recites, in relevant part: “. . . wherein the Pin1 protein activity is NIMA-binding activity” (emphasis added).

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants request that this rejection of claims 4, 9, and 17, and the objection of claims 10, 16, and 21 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

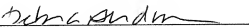
It is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in a condition for allowance. If it may further issuance of these claims, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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